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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1909.

THE PRIMARY AND THE CONVENTION.

The "lowest" or least elaborate form of State primary used in the United States is the group characterized in Dr. C. Edward Merriam's text-book as "optional-primary." This is the classification which Dr. Merriam accords to Virginia. The Virginia primary law is probably as unfinished and imperfect as that of any State in the Union. We look to see these defects gradually remedied as experience makes them manifest, just as they have been gradually remedied in Illinois and Wisconsin, for example, and to see our law develop a nominating system as detailed, complete and well guarded as our election system; but this will take time. Not the least glaring of the deficiencies in our present system is the lack of any provision for doing the collateral work formerly done by the convention. We appear to have thought that the convention had been supplanted when other provision was made for its nominating powers. It is interesting to note that this discrepancy is now attracting editorial attention in the State and that the demand is rising for the obvious remedy.

An interchange of many articles between The Times-Dispatch and an able correspondent last summer brought out fully, we think, the need of some form of party gathering to supplement the primary. The Norfolk Virginian-Pilot has recently taken up the matter with vigor, and is pointing out the difficulties and disadvantages of attempting to do without a convention, or any pretense of a substitute. By our present system there is no agency for defining the party attitude toward State issues, other than by the personal announcements of self-declared candidates. "A campaign without an authorized and definite platform," says our Norfolk contemporary, "is nothing more than a scramble for office between individuals." Often, it is true, there is no State issue of importance, and here the lack of a party-defined platform is of no great moment. But now and then the reverse is true. And in any case the opportunity for party delegates to get together periodically for personal conferences and the exchange of ideas is of real value to unified, coherent and aggressive work.

Other States, further along in their primary development, have met this same problem and have solved it in various ways. Wisconsin formulates its party platforms in a "candidates' convention," made up of all aspirants to State offices and the Legislature, with the hold-over members of the Senate. Missouri, Kansas and North Dakota allow the State central committee to formulate platforms, working with the party nominees. The platform is thus not defined until after the nominations are made, which appears to be a disadvantage. Oregon permits the candidate to make his own platform, which he may sum up in twelve words on the printed ballot. Texas refers questions of policy direct to the ballot on petition of 10 per cent of the party voters. Why these States have discarded the delegated convention for platform purposes is not plain. Their experiments with new machinery may possibly bring to light something better. The Norfolk Virginian-Pilot favors the old-fashioned convention preceding the primary, and we know of no reason why this cannot fill the present void as well as any novelty. Something to do party work which the direct primary cannot do is obviously necessary.

A LOCAL OPTION GOVERNOR IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

A State-wide prohibition bill has passed the South Carolina lower house, and is now in the hands of the Senate. With so, we gather, a very fair chance of passage. In the Executive Mansion sits a Governor chosen to office as a local optionist. South Carolina, in a word, is now in precisely the situation in which Virginia may conceivably find herself in, let us say, the year of grace 1912. It is interesting to note that the Charleston News and Courier "insults" Governor Ansel by expressing some uncertainty as to what he would do with a State-wide bill.

If the State-wide prohibition bill shall be passed by the Legislature this week, the people of South Carolina will have the opportunity of discovering for themselves exactly the degree of courage and sincerity possessed by Governor Ansel. He was elected Governor of the State twice on a local option platform, and he could not approve a prohibition measure without going back on his own pledges and disregarding the wishes of the people who elected him.

without having a clear statement on this point made incumbent upon him. It is the good fortune of the Virginia candidates for Governor to have the opportunity to make their position plain coincidentally with their appeal for votes, so that no one can have the chance hereafter to taunt them about their particular kind of "sincerity and courage."

MR. TAFT'S CABINET.

Mr. Taft's Cabinet, as finally completed, is individually a strong one. The most obvious and striking thing about it is the preponderance of lawyers it contains, most of whom are widely known men of present or past corporate connections. Mr. Knox was formerly attorney for the Pennsylvania Railroad. Jacob M. Dickinson, Secretary of War, is general counsel for the Illinois Central. The Attorney-General, Mr. Wickersham, is counsel for the Interborough traction railways of New York City. Charles Naevel, of Missouri, who will have the portfolio of Commerce and Labor, and Richard A. Ballinger, of Seattle, the Secretary of the Interior, are also lawyers of large and lucrative practice, the first of whom, at least, has not spurned corporate fees. What is the aim and what will be the effect of this "loading" of the Cabinet with conspicuous lawyers of conservative and "vested interests" training?

Mr. Taft's evident purpose has been to provide the administration with the kind of brains which are certain to be matched against it. To throw constitutional legal restrictions about corporate abuses is one of the prime objects to which he has dedicated his presidential opportunity. A very able lawyer himself, he fully understands the great difficulties of framing this legislation in such a way that it will be both just and effective, and will stand in the courts. Who can better assist him in overcoming these difficulties than a group of strong lawyers, who have possibly seen corporate abuses working from the other side? But how this scheme will work out in practice remains to be seen. Six elderly and able attorneys sitting around a state table could debate a legal point till doomsday without reaching any agreement. It is their business to disagree with each other. A Cabinet of red-tape and exasperating delays may not unnaturally result. The sympathies of these men are hardly "popular" in any wide sense, and we already hear talk of a "reactionary" Cabinet. The position of the Attorney-General, in any case, is going to be more or less awkward. It is no easy thing for any man to lay down legal opinions to men like Mr. Knox and Mr. Dickinson.

For the rest, Mr. Taft is being criticized principally for giving little thought to the secondary officials of administration, who are commonly the men who do the work. To the Cabinet itself he has devoted months of the most conscientious work and earnest thought. It is all his own. Mr. Roosevelt's insistence could not squeeze his faithful private secretary into it, and with the exception of Mr. Wilson and Mr. Meyer, there has been a clean sweep. No President has been more particular and deliberate in selecting the men who will advise him, and it is to be hoped that all the criticisms upon his theory of choice will prove ill-founded.

BATTLING THE SKELETON.

The candidates do not answer the bushwhackers because the question is an insult to them as gentlemen and an aspersion of their honor and good faith as aspirants to public office. —Petersburg Index-Appeal, February 24.

"We only maintain that it was within his (Mr. Tucker's) right to answer or not. . . . We think he has acted wisely in not remaining silent." —Petersburg Index-Appeal, February 26.

IMPRESSIVE SUFRAGETTES IN NEW YORK.

Derision is silenced before such a demonstration for woman's suffrage as that which took place in Albany on Wednesday. There was here none of the shrieking, none of the unlabeled frenzy, none of the wild bodily antics which the sisters overseas have so steadily used to advertise "Votes for Women." The appeal at the New York State Capitol was not to the physical ear, but to the reason. A body of quiet, thoroughly posted, alert and earnest women presented their case to the Legislature in such a way as to enlist its respectful attention for a matter of five hours. A committee of bankers could hardly have made a more substantial showing.

OPPOSING THE SUFRAGETTES WAS A DEPUTATION OF "ANTI'S."

The latter got rather the worst of it. For while their arguments were general and negative in character, such as "there should be less liberty, not more, in this country," "the place for women is in the home," and the like, the advocates of suffrage had the positive arguments that come from enthusiastic dedication to a reform. Mrs. Florence Kelley, a lifelong worker among workers, contrasted the difficulties she had had in obtaining legislation helpful to working women with the ease with which the labor unions get what they want. "They have votes," she cried, "and when they speak the Legislature hears," and she rebuked the let-us-alone contingent for fighting for "your cruel position of sheltered indifference, your cruel privilege of shirking your duty."

Now there is, of course, nothing new under the sun in arguments for or against the voting of women. The effect of the Albany hearing sprang much less from sudden new light upon the rationale of the problem than from the intellectual abilities of the protestants. The chief question in this country, so far at least, is not whether women should have the ballot, but whether

they want it. Here was a body of decidedly impressive women who obviously do want it, and are ready and equipped to fight for it.

Weak as the suffragette movement still is in New York, it has notably gained strength within the year. It has ceased, for the moment at least, to be wholly a joke. This is what struck the lawmakers at Albany. And the same forces that have already strengthened and stiffened it are still working on. The reference is, principally, to the industrial "emancipation" of the sex. The invasion of women into almost all departments of the world's work has brought them far closer to touch with affairs than were their mothers, and so has at the same time better fitted them for the use of the ballot and to a certain extent stimulated their desire for it. The "revolution" in the position of the sex in the social organism has already taken place. It is not especially effective to argue against the suffrage plea that "the place for women is in the home," when economic forces have already driven some 5,000,000 of them into the shops, offices and factories.

Doubt not that the famous African mountaineers are preparing to give him a bully time.

We think it unlikely, however, that even a \$720,000 will be gotten out of the obnoxious crowd without a corkscrew.

The silver lining in the Balkan warcloud is that it never means war.

After prolonged investigations by our corps of high-priced research workers, we are prepared to announce that tariff agitation is the William Loeb of the business world.

It looks now as though Mr. Hopkins's next term in the Senate will have expired before he gets it.

Not one of the critics has denied, however, that Alfred Austin's latest poem is up to his usual standard.

Very likely Mrs. Taft has already made her plans about getting the White House carpets renovated.

Oh, to read for once of a cross-examination that was not "searching."

Andrew Carnegie has announced a gift of \$150,000 to start the moral regeneration of Pittsburgh. The old man is playing the biggest proposition of his life with the cautious timidity of pennywisdom.

The navy certainly is getting the preferred position advertising.

March 4 will also witness the inception of the period when the Rough Riders will begin to dismount.

In the language of the pipe-smoker, Judge Anderson, the latest Standard Oil judge, uses a fine cut.

Impossible story beginning: "Argue till you are black in the face, gentlemen! Mr. Bunau-Varilla was shouting passionately, 'but as long as I have a tongue in my head I will stand up for the lock canal.'"

Our old friend, "if decline to answer," would not cut enough work to keep warm if it had to lay upon engagements with Colonel Cooper, of Nashville.

Whenever ready, our not very highly esteemed contemporary, the groundhog, is invited to go chase itself around the block.

EMBARRASSING QUESTIONS.

And How Governorial Candidates May Dispose of Them.

Judge Mann, a candidate for the Democratic nomination for Governor of Virginia. Both of the candidates for this nomination have entered the primary pledged to the Democratic principle of local option, and so far the candidates for the Legislature have also been running upon this platform; but we are told that every now and then "some guerrilla or bush-whacker" puts this question to the judge: "In the event of your election as Governor and the passage by the Legislature of a bill for a State-wide prohibition measure, would you approve it or veto it?" The Democratic position on this question is that of local option, but we are told that the Anti-Saloon League Convention at Norfolk, which was in no sense a Democratic party organization, is trying to inject this new and wholly undemocratic issue into the campaign.

That its purpose is simply to "embarrass the candidates," we should think the candidates themselves would be able to answer. The question of the Anti-Saloon League is not a Democratic question, but a question of the party organization. It would be for them to answer it, and not for the State to answer it.

THE BALKAN CRISIS.

Berlin injects some grim humor into Situation Now Grave.

But for the serious consequences which may follow any increase of the present tension in the relations of Austria and Serbia there would be humor in the response of the German Foreign Office to the proposal of France for concerted action to mediate between Vienna and Belgrade. Germany responds that it does not deem it desirable to participate in any suggestions to Austria, but is perfectly willing to join in bringing pressure on Serbia.

A little reflection may impel the Berlin statesmen to think their reply lacking in tact. It will serve to confirm the suspicion of European observers that Germany not only engaged Austria in the treaty of Berlin, but has since encouraged that power to persist in a course that seems inspired by a purpose to fester a quarrel on Serbia.

The cabinets of London, St. Petersburg and Paris have all been disquieted by the indifference the Austrian premier has shown to their hints that "fair and settled" would be his wisest policy—certainly that most convenient move, perhaps the other powers really desirous of preventing a collision between big Austria and little Serbia may follow suit, but unless friendly dispatches gravely insist on the fact, the time to lose. The first week of March may be a most critical period, for then the commercial treaty between Austria and Serbia expires, the former can turn to boycott the latter, and the latter may be driven to a desperate commercial either bring them to their knees or force them to a display of temper sufficient to afford pretext for a military occupation of Belgrade.

Many have dreamed of a bright day, when, after a long and dark night, the sun would shine brightly on the world.

George Washington and Liberty.

The hollowed out of our cherished dead, the hollowed out of our cherished dead, the hollowed out of our cherished dead.

And those brave spirits who passed away, then passed from sight to a brighter sphere.

Still living deeds that illumine each mile of Liberty's coast, and near.

The cost of Liberty's crowning height.

Was dearly paid by events which won America's peace, whose hopeful light was kindled, in war, by George Washington.

Strangers in endless flood since have come, sharing ripe harvests of freedom's soil, reaping rich fruit, bearing witness to the truth, yielding a bounty to honest toil.

The name of Washington stands for peace, his memory, like flowers, endures the earth.

As time rolls on shall his fame increase, gather fresh force in his land of birth.

Borrowed Jingles.

THE DRAMA.

In fallen slouch, a sagged dress, in flannel she stands, a peck of diamonds, more or less, yet she must beg, she doth conies, in foreign lands.

The canvas grove is dark and vast, the wint'ry breeze, coming whistling in a bitter blast, through canvas trees, the paper snow is falling fast, and she will freeze.

And now the wolves are on the run, the woe of woe, and how they beguile, in sudden groups, I know not, but the trick is done, outside by sly.

The hero dashes from the wings, the wolves shudder, the leading lady to him clings, for the first time in the play, we may as well put on our things, the play is through.

—Washington Herald.

MERRYLY JOKING.

Love at Second Sight.

"A case of love at first sight, eh?"

"No, second sight. The first time he saw her he didn't know she was an actress." —Boston Transcript.

Generous.

"You are the man who is always superior to men?"

"No," answered Mr. Moxton, "the other day I was the author of the so-called 'The Man Who Took It for Granted' that he wasn't as well able to back up to a strap as he was." —Washington Star.

Thankfulness.

"What are you saying about?"

"What is that?"

"A very good one. He had me with the same." —Chicago Record-Herald.

High Finance.

"Ta, what please tell me what a financial crisis is?"

"A financial crisis, my child, is a man who can spend money that he has never had." —Chicago Record-Herald.

Field by the Enemy.

"I have you ever been to the field by the enemy?"

"Yes, sir, you see, I used to be a good field by the enemy. Besides, it was a good many years ago, and he was a good field by the enemy." —Chicago Record-Herald.

He Struck It.

"Pardon me, is a safety match?"

"He struck it, my child, is a safety match." —Chicago Record-Herald.

WISDOM IN SMALL DOSES.

"You call yourself a naval expert?"

"Yes, sir, I am a naval expert." —Chicago Record-Herald.

President-elect Taft is governing the nation of men, and he is governing the nation of men, and he is governing the nation of men.

The most wonderful thing about the long voyage of the fleet is that only one man, as far as we have heard, got drunk. —Charleston News and Courier.

A Tennessee girl settled a breach-of-promise case for \$2, and, as a result, she has the money that the man, incidentally of this kind must flatter the men down that way. —Philadelphia Press.

We would hate to see Mr. Harriman cut up with the Texas fleet. —Atlanta Journal.

But we shall have three breadwinners—two of the battalions variety and Hobson. —Atlanta Constitution.

PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

The fifteenth son in the fifteenth year has been born to Mr. and Mrs. Chris. Revue of Noble township, Cass county, Ind.

Tramway cases, suits of the Revue de Deux Mondes was received into the French Academy the other day as the successor to Berthelot.

A leading German electrical company has in contemplation the erection of a new plant for the exclusive manufacture of electric and telephone apparatus.

Dr. C. C. Clark, associate statistician of the Department of Agriculture, has accepted an appointment as chief of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, information in the International Institute, at Rome, Italy.

The only woman member of the Colorado Legislature, Mrs. Anna V. Laferty, has distinguished herself by her opposition to the humiliating bill allowing the professors of the State university to become Carnegie pensioners.

Ex-Governor Folk, of Missouri, is said to have been successful in the year which will yield him \$175,000. Mr. Bryan, however, still leads the lecture procession with a record of the year to yield, it is estimated, \$175,000.

The plague in India first made its appearance in Bombay, where the disease was first reported. It has since spread to other parts of the country, and is now a serious menace to the health of the people.

Briquettes of compressed calcium, rare specimens of which have been found in Vienna, and are claimed to be non-hygroscopic, keeping indefinitely, and non-corrosive, are being made by a process of water. They are made by intimately mixing finely granulated carbide with binding material, and pressing into briquettes.

Dr. William S. Bigelow, who is responsible for the cutting of the new United States gold coins, is now in the United States, and is expected to return to his home in England.

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The Courts of Europe

By La Marquise de Fontenay.

Sir Eldon Gorst, British Ruler in Egypt.

Viceroy of Egypt, and without any doubt the most powerful man in Egypt, Sir Eldon Gorst, who succeeded Lord Cromer as British plenipotentiary in Egypt, inaugurating a new era of Egyptian history.

With universal satisfaction on the part of the natives, from henceforth the cabinet ministers, who are all natives, will be called upon to explain and defend their policy and measures in Parliament. This was first suggested by Lord Dufferin in clause 27 of the so-called organic law of 1883, but it was not until the year 1895 that it was put into effect.

The late Lord Dufferin was, as Lord High Commissioner after the Arabi Revolt, assisted in the drafting of the organic law of 1883, which is, in fact, the actual Constitution of Egypt. He was assisted in the drafting of the organic law of 1883, which is, in fact, the actual Constitution of Egypt.

According to this Constitution, Egypt is endowed with a Legislative Council, composed of thirty members, fourteen of whom are nominated by the government, and sixteen elected by the provinces and principal cities. It exercises a supervisory function over the projects of law and administrative edicts of the government, the idea being that it should furnish the viewpoint of the administration. Its votes are recorded, but are not binding on the government.

Imposition of new direct personal or land taxes, which cannot be decreed without its consent. Until now the minister has not been called upon to take part in the sessions or to voice any explanation. From now on, however, he will be obliged to render an account to the Legislative Council of their acts.

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a number of children to provide for. He is celebrated by reason of his bitter warfare with the artist, Whistler, and also by reason of his love for the actress, Lady Eden. He owes the name "of Maryland," in conjunction with the second of his two baronets, to the fact that his great-grandfather had created a baronet, under the title of Sir Robert Eden of Maryland, for his services as Governor of the colony of Maryland. Sir Robert married Caroline Calvert, sister of the last Lord Baltimore, and his daughter, Lady Eden, was the daughter of Sir William Grey and a granddaughter of the first and famous Earl Grey.